

Seattle Federal Executive Board  
***Public Affairs Committee Meeting Summary***  
***“Spring Tribal Caucus”***

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Steinbrueck Native Gallery

**Federal Attendees –**

Rita Beal, **Health & Human Services**  
Tina Minor, **Administration for Children and Families**  
Cecile Greenway, **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**  
Stephanie Magill, **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**  
Mike Howard, **Federal Emergency Management Administration**  
Rudy Hurtado, **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**  
Richard Ahearn, **National Labor Relations Board**  
Lori Espe, **Federal Milk Market**  
Anne Tiernan, **Seattle Federal Executive Board**

**Tribal Attendees –**

Frank Fabunan, **Quinault Indian Nation**  
Jeanne McMinds, **Quinault Indian Nation**  
Kathy Fabunan, **Quinault Indian Nation**  
George David, **Nuu-Chah-Nulth**  
James Madison, **Tlingit/Coastal Salish**  
Alfred Charles, **Lower Elwha/Klallam**

**Summary –**

- **Presentation by Quinault Indian Nation Members**
  - “Tribal Sovereignty” is not equal to legal definition of sovereignty
  - Treaties were an exchange of land for services; some lands and traditional uses of lands were “reserved” by Tribes (=reservations)
  - Treaties must legally: be interpreted the way Tribes would have at the time of signing; resolve ambiguities in favor of Tribes; be construed liberally in favor of Tribes
  - Supreme Court “Marshal Trilogy” (1823-1832) was the cornerstone of federal Tribal policy and challenging relations between Tribes and States
  - Tribes participate in government-to-government relations with federal government; optional and inconsistent with state and local entities

- **Federal-Tribal Policy Timeline**
  - 1787 Sovereign to Sovereign
  - 1828 Indian Removal and Relocation
  - 1887 Allotment and Assimilation
  - 1934 Reorganization and Preservation
  - 1953 Termination
  - 1968 Self-Determination and Self-Governance
- **Guidance for Federal Communicators**
  - Learn about each individual Tribe, their priorities, their history of federal and state relations; all Tribes can be very different, avoid generalization
  - Visit Tribal facilities and meet with leadership and community members to build familiarity and trust
  - Do not assume mail or email communications are received or reach the appropriate Tribal representative; follow up in person
  - Learn if a specific Tribe you are communicating with is a Treaty or Non-Treaty Tribe and the affects this may have on perspectives
  - Tribes are relearning heritage, language, religion, and traditions; though in the throes of early rediscovery, cultural resurgence is widespread
- **Artistic Perspectives**
  - Tribal art is a window into stories, traditions, skills and techniques passed down through generations
  - Art can portray the scars of relocation, assimilation and termination; as well as hope for the future
  - Understanding the art and craftsmanship of individual tribes can provide greater understanding of Tribal priorities and identity
- **Many Thanks**
  - To our friends of the Quinault Indian Nation, for traveling from Tahola to share experiences and lessons with us in hopes of guiding federal communicators along a more enlighten path of Tribal relations
  - To our new artist friends, for opening up to us and sharing your stories and inspirations that have lead to such beautiful representation of your love for your cultures and your peoples
  - To our friends at Steinbrueck Native Gallery, for welcoming us in to your amazing gallery with such hospitality and true belief that communication is most effective when we reach out to and embrace each other

## **Administrative Matters –**

### **➤ Next Event**

- Topic: **ESF 15 – Emergency Communications**
- Presenter: **Mike Howard, FEMA**
- Month: **June**
- Location: **TBD**

### **➤ Website**

- [www.seattlefeb.us/pacommittee.html](http://www.seattlefeb.us/pacommittee.html) -- check out the updates!
- Continue sending me your web addresses for agency press releases; once I get a few more I'll submit them to the webmaster for posting
- I will also be adding a general contact information list of our members; if you would like your information removed please just let me know

### **➤ Feedback**

- Please send and feedback to [rita.beal@hhs.gov](mailto:rita.beal@hhs.gov)
- Have your voice heard – this Committee must remain beneficial to you, your organization and our joint mission

**"The Native American community faces huge challenges that  
have been ignored by Washington for too long.  
It is time to empower Native Americans in the development of  
the national policy agenda."**

***--President Barack Obama***